

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 10, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response extended one month set to expire on January 10, 2010. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Statement of Substance of Interview

On December 16, 2009, a telephonic interview was held between Walter C. Grollitsch, the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor. The parties discussed the cited references Claesson (US 2002/0033083) and Lundbald (US 20020083805). Claim 1 was also discussed.

An agreement was reached during the interview. The amendments made herein are believed to be consistent with the agreement reached during the interview. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-10, 14-16, and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claesson, Lundbald and Redmond (US 5,913,955). In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1.

As amended, claim 1 includes, among other things, the limitation of at least one force exchange device comprising at least one actuator attached to a locator sleeve, wherein the locator sleeve with the at least one actuator is movable along an outer surface of an object. The combination of Claesson, Lundbald and Redmond fails to disclose these limitations. As admitted by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, Claesson does not teach a force exchange device attached to a locator sleeve that is movable along a surface of an object and therefore relies on Lundbald to teach this limitation. Lundbald merely discloses a carrier 13 that is configured to support a tool 1 (see Lundbald, paragraph 0048 and Figures 9-10). As discussed during the interview, the carrier 13 disclosed in Lundbald is clearly different from a force exchange device comprising at least one actuator attached to a locator sleeve, wherein the locator sleeve

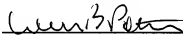
with the at least one actuator is movable along an outer surface of an object as recited in claim 1. Additionally, Redmond merely discloses an apparatus having an actuator mounted in a recess of a bar and therefore fails to cure the deficiencies of the combination of Claesson and Lundbald.

As the foregoing illustrates, the combination of Claesson, Lundbald and Redmond fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. This failure precludes the combination of Claesson, Lundbald and Redmond from rendering claim 1 obvious. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the 103(a) rejection of claim 1 be removed and allowance of the same. Additionally, the claims that depend from claim 1 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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